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THE CIVIL SERVICE.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY CONFOUNDS THE PROPHETS.

His Policy of Reform in Marked Contrast to That of His Predecessor—No Removals Can Be Made From the Classified Service Except For Cause.

The order of President McKinley, recently issued, in respect to removals and appointments in the civil service of the government will sensibly encourage the advocates of reform and confound the prophets who were sure that the administration would take a backward step in this matter. Instead of rescinding the order of the last administration, issued just before it went out of office and intended to protect the partisans who had obtained places, that regulation is left practically intact, the civil service rules are extended to 65 custom house offices not heretofore under the classified service, and a new rule promulgated which gives better protection to competent officials than any regulation yet established. The only appointments taken out of the classified list are one cashier and one deputy in each customs district and one deputy collector in each support or station, but in these appointments are so hedged about with rules that they are really competitive.

This act of President McKinley is justly regarded as the most distinct triumph won for reform in the civil service. The public has heard so many civil service reform promises made by the lip and then seen them broken by the act that it is not strange that the confidence of the country in the sincerity of pledges on this subject had become seriously weakened. No more discouraging example in this way can be cited than the one given by the last administration. Entering office with great pretensions of reform, it was no sooner in power than it threw to the winds all its pledges and began as sweeping changes as were known in the best days of the spoils system.

In the consular offices a larger number of changes were made than had ever been seen before in the same time, the treasury department at Washington was nearly cleared of its experienced clerks in order to make places for Democratic partisans and in other departments efficient Republicans had their standing reduced for the same purpose, while throughout the country the same policy of removal and partisan appointment was pursued. And then when the country had condemned and voted out of office the administration responsible for this travesty on reform an order was promulgated putting all these partisan appointees under the protection of the civil service rules.

This was the situation which confronted Mr. McKinley when he came into office. And the question he had to ask himself was whether it would be better to tacitly consent to the wrong done by his predecessor by leaving unrescinded Mr. Cleveland's order and allowing the partisan appointments to remain or whether he should permit a general weeding out of the incompetents and then extend the rules anew. If he took the latter course, he was sure to be charged with partisanship and a general outcry would have been made that another illustration had been given of the insincerity of parties in making civil service reform pledges. President McKinley chose the former path, and the great majority of the intelligent people of the country will agree that he has chosen wisely. A few years will see the incompetents weeded out of the offices, but it would have needed a good many years to have restored the people's trust in a Republican reform pledge had President McKinley apparently violated his pledge. No one can accuse him now of even the appearance of partisanship or of a willingness to use the error of his predecessor as an excuse for gratifying the demand for office.

But the most distinct contribution President McKinley makes to civil service reform is his order covering removals from the classified service. These cannot be made except for cause and upon written charges and after the accused has had an opportunity for defense. This rule is really of more value to the reform than all those promulgated by previous presidents. It puts a stop at once to the many evasions of the other rules which have been eagerly resorted to by the enemies of civil service reform, and it would alone define President McKinley's attitude on the question. He has taken the right step at the right time and in the right way, as he has done frequently since he became president. As the Brooklyn Eagle says, "His action is on the side of civilization, justice and the future." If he should do nothing else worthy of notice, this one act will gain him the plaudits of the country and the commendation of history. —Philadelphia Press.

"Thank You, Mr. President."

It was in 1842 that John Draper, then a professor in the University of New York, made the first portrait photograph. The subject was Elizabeth Draper, his sister. Professor Draper had the idea that in order to produce distinct facial outlines in photography it would be necessary to cover the countenance of the person photographed with flour. This seems a strange notion now, and it proved not to be a good one then, for all of Professor Draper's early attempts were failures. Finally he left off the flour and then was quite successful. This so delighted him that he sent the picture to Sir William Herschel, the eminent English astronomer. Sir William was in turn delighted and made known Professor Draper's success to the scientific men of Europe. He also sent Professor Draper a letter of acknowledgment and congratulation, which has been carefully preserved in the archives of the Draper family.



Protection as a Prosperity Protector. A protective tariff is the best thing to protect prosperity. —Louisville Commercial.

BRITISH WHEAT BUYERS.

Individual Interest, Not Sentiment, Characterizes Business Dealings.

Free traders tell us that a protective tariff policy prevents our exporting goods to foreign parts. Whether the repeated assertion of this argument is based on an assumption of the producers' ignorance we do not know. We have never heard a free trader go beyond the bold assertion to any explanation how a tariff on imports affected exports very materially.

It will be borne in mind that there is to be no tariff on exports, yet they tell us that we will kill our foreign market if we protect our home market. How? Who will explain how? When asked to explain how that effect is produced by a protective tariff, the usual answer is: "Why, if we tell England she shall not ship her manufactured goods into the United States in competition with American goods of course England will say to the United States, 'Then we will not buy your wheat nor your flour.'"

Now that is an explanation based wholly on the idea that it is England as a nation which buys our products, and there is just the error which is the foundation of the free trader's strongest argument. England buys no wheat nor anything else from us, unless it is a little to supply her army and navy. It is not England, but it is an Englishman—an individual, not a nation—that does the purchasing.

Now that English wheat buyer is not the individual who owns a knife factory at Sheffield, he is not the man who runs a cotton factory, he is not the fellow who controls the Irish linen mills, he is not even a second cousin of the chap who manufactures silks.

When that wheat buyer goes down on 'change at Liverpool, he is not likely to stop and say to himself: "That Yankee congress has passed a law which prevents some linen factories of Ireland from selling linen to Minnesota people, and the result of that law will be that after awhile the flax of Minnesota will be made into linen right near the Minnesota farmers. Therefore I'll not buy any No. 1 hard wheat of the Red river valley."

No, that wheat buyer does not worry half so much about the English knife-maker or the Irish linen manufacturer as he does about the fact that the telegraph shows him that wheat is selling for a ha'penny lower in Minneapolis today than it was yesterday and that therefore he can get Yankee wheat more cheaply than he can Australian or Venezuelan wheat.

There is a heap of sentimentalism about the free trader's gush concerning the brotherhood of all nations, but when it comes down to the business of buying and selling the individual looks after the individual. It is a selfish world, a very practical world, in business matters. —Northwestern Agriculturist.

MEXICO'S FOREIGN DEBT.

Kiting Skyward as Their Silver Currency Goes the Other Way.

What simple minded children of nature those Mexicans are! Here all their multitudinous foreign debt is leaping skyward as their silver currency sinks into the pit. The annual interest on their national bonds has risen \$1,000,000 in a week. Their railway securities, held abroad and all payable in gold, are weakening at the sight of the fearful increase in premium which those corporations will have to pay to discharge their obligations. But the benighted heathens never so much as whisper repudiation. Apparently they know not what it means. The notion that the "creditor class" should be obliged to take 417 grains of silver in discharge of a dollar of debt without regard to the value of the grain has never penetrated their opaque Central American skulls. Poor honest fools!

But Bryan is going there, and Bryan will teach them better. He will tell them that the main purpose of the convention which nominated him was to legalize the payment of 100 cent gold dollar foreign debt in 50 cent silver dollar domestic coin. He will quote Altgeld in the convention hall glowing over this very prospect and almost in these very words. He will tell how Joe Blackburn in Tammany hall gleefully depicted the foreign creditor "backing up his cart" to the treasury for 50 cent dollars in place of the 100 cent dollars he lent. He will quote the great majority of the convention which affirmed this position in the vote on Senator Hill's resolution against the impairment of "gold clause" contracts—that is, he will if he is true to the cardinal article of his faith. And if he does President Porfirio Diaz, being an honest sort of autocrat, will show him the door, the steps and the bottom thereof with a suddenness which only Spanish-American courtesy will differentiate from the violence due to the common North American hatrack thief. —New York Press.

Southern Inconsistency.

The act of those southern senators who voted against the duties on manufactured cotton, but for the duties on raw cotton, is a marvel of shortsightedness. The best customer the southern raiser of cotton has is the northern manufacturer of cotton. If the American cotton manufacturer were not protected, the southern cotton raiser would have a curtailed market and a lower price for his product. Protection to the raw product would avail nothing if free trade in the manufactured product ruined American cotton manufacturers and deprived the raiser of cotton of his best market. But the south has acknowledged the principle of protection and has recognized the value and necessity of protection along some lines.

Protection's Strength Illustrated.

In a senate not controlled by the Republicans a majority of ten for protection is a demonstration of the growth and permanent strength of the Republican economic policy. —Cincinnati Times-Star.

JESTS OF THE JOKERS.

A Necessary Change.
"What is home without a mother?"
"Tear the dear old motto down."
In its place hang quite another,
Stitched in worsted, framed in brown.
There's another woman dearer,
Harder far to keep and please,
And some day that's coming nearer
We'll adore her on our knees
While she chokes your epiglottis
For the dear old legend hurl
Hang another—namely, "What is
Home without a servant girl?"
—T. Winthrop in New York Truth.

Too High.
At a recent birthday party in Shepherd's Bush a young lady began a song, "The autumn days have come, ten thousand leaves are falling." She began too high. "Ten thousand—!" she screamed, and then stopped.
"Start her at five thousand!" cried an auctioneer who was present. —Tit-Bits.

Greatly Relieved.

First Partner—Heavens! Our bookkeeper has taken—
Second Partner—Taken what?
First Partner—His life.
Second Partner—Oh, what a relief! I thought you were going to say that he took some of our money. —Roxbury Gazette.

Not His Luck.

Mrs. Peck—Hure! another case of a man who forgot to appear on his wedding day.
Hure! Peck—And yet they call absent-mindedness a misfortune. —Philadelphia North American.

A Pagan's Prayer.

O kindly fates, watch over me,
And, if you may, please also keep
My little wife from waking me
To ask me if I am asleep!
—Detroit Journal.

Humane.

Rafferty (tugging wildly)—For th' love av hiven, Casey, hilt me pull th' pup off th' nuyghur. It'll founder itself wid over-atin. —New York Journal.

A Western Epitaph.

Here lies the body of old Bill Byer,
Who called Taramula Jack a liar.
The corner sot and was satisfied
To call it a case of suicide.
—Denver Post.

Had Heard the Prodigy.

A.—Have you heard the 8-year-old violin player who is creating such a sensation?
B.—Oh, yes. I heard him in Berlin 15 years ago. —Tit-Bits.

Mary's Little Lamb.

Mary had a little lamb,
Short tailed and velvet eared.
It wandered into Wall street,
And then it disappeared.
—New York Telegram.

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